

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (ORIGINAL) A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a substance that suppresses a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof.
2. (ORIGINAL) A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a substance that reduces the activity of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof.
3. (ORIGINAL) The brain/nerve cell protective agent of claim 2, wherein the substance that reduces the activity is a neutralizing antibody against a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof.
4. (ORIGINAL) A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a substance that inhibits the expression of the gene that encodes a polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6.
5. (ORIGINAL) The brain/nerve cell protective agent of claim 4, wherein the substance that inhibits the expression is a nucleic acid comprising a base sequence complementary to a base sequence that encodes a polypeptide having the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by

SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a portion thereof.

6. (ORIGINAL) A diagnostic agent for a brain/nerve cell injury, which comprises an antibody against a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof.

7. (ORIGINAL) A diagnostic agent for a brain/nerve cell injury, which comprises a nucleic acid comprising a base sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a portion thereof.

8. (ORIGINAL) A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a substance that inhibits the binding of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof, and a receptor thereof.

9. (ORIGINAL) A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a substance that inhibits the cell stimulation activity of a receptor of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof.

10. (ORIGINAL) A brain/nerve cell protective agent comprising a substance that inhibits the expression of the gene that encodes a receptor of a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The brain/nerve cell protective agent described in ~~claims 8 to 10~~ claim 8, wherein the receptor is a protein comprising the same or

substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, or a salt thereof.

12. (ORIGINAL) A method for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises using a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof.

13. (ORIGINAL) A method for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises using a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof.

14. (ORIGINAL) A kit for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof.

15. (ORIGINAL) A kit for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, a partial peptide thereof, or a salt thereof.

16. (ORIGINAL) A method for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises using a nucleic acid comprising the base sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a portion thereof.

17. (ORIGINAL) A method for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises using a nucleic acid comprising the base sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, or a portion thereof.

18. (ORIGINAL) A kit for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises a nucleic acid comprising the base sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a portion thereof.

19. (ORIGINAL) A kit for screening of a substance that exhibits brain/nerve cell protective action, which comprises a nucleic acid comprising the base sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, or a portion thereof.

20. (ORIGINAL) A method of protecting brain or nerve cells, which comprises administering a substance that suppresses a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or salt thereof, to a subject in need thereof.

21. (ORIGINAL) Use of a substance that suppresses a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of amino acid number 1 and after in the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6, or a salt thereof, for producing a brain/nerve cell protective agent.

22. (NEW) The brain/nerve cell protective agent described in claim 9, wherein the receptor is a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, or a salt thereof.

23. (NEW) The brain/nerve cell protective agent described in claim 10, wherein the receptor is a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:8 or 10, or a salt thereof.